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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (N.W.T.)

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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (N.W.T.)

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

JULY, 1988

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (N.W.T.)

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT)

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), hereafter referred to as WMAC (NWT), has been in existence since early in 1986. Formed in response to the legal requirement for such a body, under the Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act, the Council functioned for the first year in a rather informal manner.

Relationships with the other boards, councils and committees established under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), were developed. In particular, the relationship between the WMAC and the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) was seen to be most important. A close relationship was formalized in January 1987 and has since proved a most harmonious arrangement. The WMAC (NWT) at a meeting in March, 1988 agreed that its activities should be made known to the public through the provision of an annual report. This first report, then, covers the activities of the Council from the appointment of the Chairman in October 1985 to March 31, 1988, the end of the 1987-88 fiscal year.

ROLE OF THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT)

The role of the WMAC (NWT), in the legal sense, is set out quite clearly in the IFA. The relevant sections are quoted in Appendix A.

Translation of the legal role into a practical operational role has been a slow process based upon experience over the first year. The members believe that the Council should be active rather than simply reacting to various issues or topics as they arise. Hence the role of the Council should continue to change and grow over the years.

Two developments respecting organization have arisen from the duties outlined in the IFA and early experience. First, the requirement under Subsection 14(57) of the IFA for establishment of a secretariat for the Council was seen to be a potentially inefficient use of staff. Discussions with representatives of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and chairmen of the Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC), the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB), the Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC) and the IGC resulted in the formation of a single administrative body to serve all of the joint management committees established under the IFA. The Joint Secretariat-Inuvialuit Renewable Resources Committees was established under the Societies Act of the Northwest Territories on October 17, 1986.

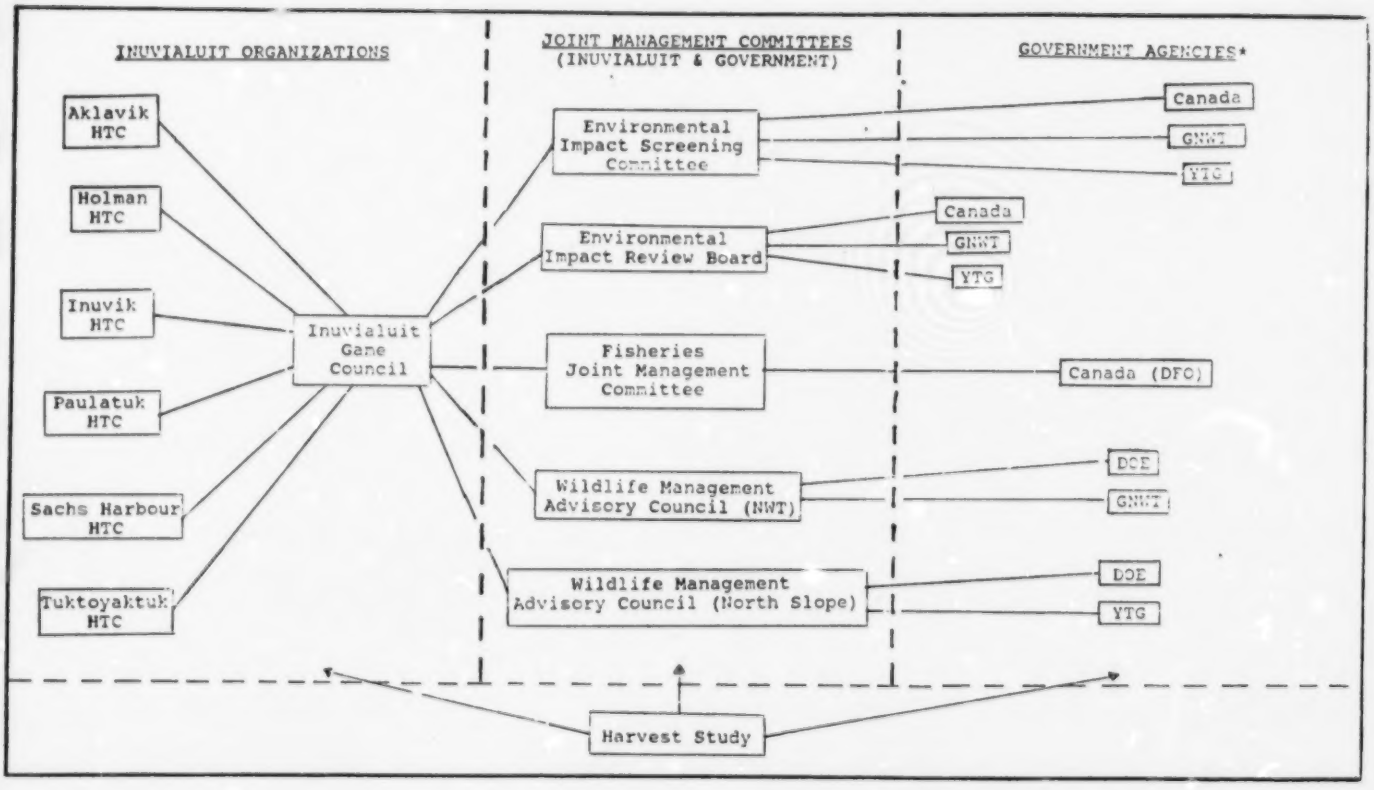
The second development of particular significance has been the establishment of a much closer working relationship with the IGC than was perhaps envisaged in the IFA. The WMAC (NWT) now serves to advise the IGC on a continuing basis. Council members attend meetings of the IGC to provide technical advice during their deliberations. WMAC

(NWT) then meets immediately after the IGC in order to expedite issues such as requests for increased quotas, changes in seasons and the like. The Council also serves to review research or other reports received, and conducts an annual review of the proposed wildlife research programs of the GNWT Renewable Resources Department and the Canadian Wildlife Service, advising the IGC as appropriate. Thus a very close relationship between the IGC and the WMAC (NWT) has been established, enabling both groups to serve the interests of the people more effectively.

ORGANIZATION CHART

RENEWABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

CREATED UNDER THE INUVIALUIT FINAL AGREEMENT



* GNWT=Government of the Northwest Territories; YTG=Yukon Territorial Government; DFO=Department of Fisheries & Oceans; DOE=Department of Environment

ACTIVITIES TO THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 1987/88

ORGANIZATION AND REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

Following appointment of the Chairman in October of 1985 there was a considerable period devoted to discussion of how the requirements set out in the IFA, for establishment of the several boards, councils and committees, should best be met. In May 1986 the nominations for membership on the WMAC (NWT) were complete, and the first formal meeting took place on June 25-26 of that year. Items on the agenda included review of terms of reference, relationship to other agencies, wildlife harvest study plan and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

The Chairman reported on the activities of the Council at IGC meetings in January, April, June and September 1986. At the IGC meeting on January 20, 1987 it was formally approved that the WMAC (NWT) should operate by holding its meeting in conjunction with the IGC, with only one or two separate meetings per year to deal with exclusively WMAC concerns. That arrangement continues, with Council attendance at further IGC meetings in February, June, September and November of 1987, and March of 1988. Separate WMAC meetings were held in November 1987 and January 1988.

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Following the appointment of Norm Snow as Executive Director for the Joint Secretariat in August 1986, Leslie Treseder was hired as a resource person in April 1987. This has made a major contribution to the work of the WMAC (NWT) and has enabled it to become much more effective. In November 1987 the position of Vice-Chairman for the Council was formalized and Andy Carpenter was so appointed. This position provides for a Council member resident in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region who can assure attendance, when required, at various events outside the normal IGC-WMAC (NWT) business meetings. The complete membership of the WMAC (NWT) is listed in Appendix B.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Section 14 (60)(b) of the IFA charges the WMAC (NWT) with the production of a regional wildlife conservation and management plan. Work on this document began early in 1987. The document is now titled the Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Conservation and Management Plan, in recognition of its application to resources other than wildlife.

Informal meetings in February, April and August 1987 moved the draft plan to the point where it was presented by a Council member to the

IGC meeting at Holman in September 1987. The plan was approved, with the proviso that the IGC wished to give final approval when the Plan reached finished form.

The final review of the text of the Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Conservation and Management Plan occurred at the WMAC meeting on January 28, 1988. The layout for the plan was reviewed by the Council at their meeting on March 4, 1988. The Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Conservation and Management Plan will be published in 1988 after final approval by the IGC.

Development of the Conservation and Management Plan has led to a number of initiatives by the WMAC (NWT). In reviewing the action items arising out of the document, Council members agreed that they should be active rather than simply reacting as others raised matters of concern. In November 1987, a decision was made to produce Community Conservation and Management Plans within the framework of the Regional Plan. These plans will outline specific actions that each community in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region will take to achieve the objectives outlined in the Regional Plan. The community of Paulatuk will serve as a model in this exercise. In March 1988, WMAC approved the concentration of available funding on the Paulatuk Community Conservation and Management Plan during 1988, since the Working Group there showed such great enthusiasm for the project.

Another result of the Regional Plan is the production of a resource directory. As a companion document to the Community Conservation and Management Plans, this will serve as a reference on renewable resource management in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The community renewable resource directory has been identified as a priority project for the WMAC (NWT) for fiscal year 1988/89.

LEGISLATION CHANGES

During 1987/88, a system was adopted to deal with community requests for changes in wildlife legislation. All requests for changes to regulations, quotas, etc. are made in writing through the local Hunters' and Trappers' Committees. These requests are sent to the IGC and then passed on to the WMAC (NWT). If approved, the requests are either forwarded to the appropriate government authority for legislative action or referred back to the IGC. Following adoption of this system, the backlog of community requests had been largely eliminated by March 1988.

Between 1986 and 1988, WMAC (NWT) dealt with allocation of polar bear tags, and proposals for changes to grizzly bear seasons and quotas, hunting of caribou in the reindeer reserve and a moose survey in the Tuktoyaktuk area.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The first annual review of proposed wildlife research projects took place in January, 1988. The Council reviewed proposals by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Renewable Resources Department of the GNWT. Some of the studies planned for 1988 were in response to earlier requests made through the IGC and the WMAC (NWT).

PROCEDURES

The WMAC (NWT) began to develop formal procedures late in 1987. After several drafts the Procedures were adopted in March, 1988. Copies are available upon request.

PUBLICATIONS

As the regional Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Conservation and Management Plan reached the layout stage, the question arose of style and format for any publications that the Council may produce. It was determined that all publications should be standardized and released in a series. A competition for a logo was held at Samuel Hearne High School in Inuvik during February 1988. From eight drawings presented, that of Grant Rivalin was deemed to be most appropriate, and will be used on letterhead as well as Council publications. Members of the WMAC (NWT) are particularly pleased to be able to use a logo produced in and related to the Region.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Early in 1987 the WMAC (NWT) dealt with potential environmental impacts of a gas development and pipeline to Tuktoyaktuk. In November of that year, a joint meeting was held with Yukon representatives, concerned with establishment of the WMAC (North Slope). In February 1988, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman attended a conference on Sustainable Development through Northern Conservation Strategies. The Chairman presented an update on the Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Conservation and Management Plan and other conservation initiatives in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The budget for the WMAC (NWT) is administered by the Joint Secretariat. Funding was first transferred to the Secretariat on July 1, 1986. Between that date and March 31, 1987, a total of $27,237 was spent on behalf of the Council. These expenditures covered the Chairman's costs for start-up of the Council's activities, a workshop on implementation of the IFA and office rental and supplies.

The 1987/88 fiscal year marked the beginning of full-fledged operations for the WMAC (NWT). Total expenditures were $45,678. The vast majority of this covered travel and other costs for the Chairman and the IGC representatives to attend regular Council meetings. Other

expenditures included travel related to the Paulatuk Community Conservation and Management Plan, pre-production costs for the Regional Plan and office expenses.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Over the past two years the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) has gradually developed good working relationships with the IGC and government agencies in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The Council has begun to fulfill the tasks assigned to it in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, particularly with regard to conservation and management plans and quotas for wildlife harvesting. On some issues the Council has proceeded cautiously, since its members are aware that they are setting a precedent for future activities. At all times the principles of conservation, integrated management and full participation of the Inuvialuit in management decisions have been held paramount. The WMAC (NWT) enters its second year of operations with optimism that continued cooperation by all parties involved will lead to achievement of the objectives outlined in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

APPENDIX A

ROLE OF THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT) AS SET OUT IN THE INUVIALUIT FINAL AGREEMENT

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)

14.(45) A council to be known as the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) is to be established as soon as possible after the execution of this Agreement.

14.(46) The Council shall initially have six (6) members: one (1) representing Canada, two (2) representing the Government of the Northwest Territories and three (3) representing the Inuvialuit.

14.(47) The Council shall have jurisdiction in respect of that portion of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region that falls within the Northwest Territories.

14.(48) The Council shall have as permanent members a Chairman and an equal number of native and government members.

14.(49) The permanent government members of the Council shall include persons designated by the Government of the Northwest Territories, and one person designated by the Minister of the Environment of Canada.

14.(50) In addition to permanent members of the Council, temporary members may be co-opted from government departments or native groups, as they may be required from time to time.

14.(51) The permanent members of the Council appointed to represent the native interests shall include persons designated by the Inuvialuit.

14.(52) Other native groups that have acquired harvesting rights in the Western Arctic Region under their land claims settlements shall be entitled to designate a representative.

14.(53) Pursuant to subsections (39) to (41), where native people adjacent to the Western Arctic Region harvest a game resource in common with the Inuvialuit, those native people shall be entitled to membership on the Council on an equitable basis with the Inuvialuit for the consideration of the harvestable quotas and allocation of the subsistence quotas for that game resource.

14.(54) The Chairman of the Council shall be appointed by the Government of the Northwest Territories, with the consent of the Inuvialuit and Canada.

14.(55) The permanent members of the Council shall each have one (1) vote. The Chairman shall have a vote only in case of a deadlock. Temporary members shall not have a vote.

14.(56) The Council may establish rules and adopt by-laws regulating its procedures, including the holding of public hearings.

14.(57) The Government of the Northwest Territories agrees to provide a secretariat to assist in meeting the administrative needs of the Council.

14.(58) Meetings of the Council shall be held once a year or more often as the appropriate minister or the Council decides.

14.(59) Each party shall pay the remuneration and expenses of the members of the Council that it appoints or designates.

14.(60) The Council shall, on request, provide advice to the appropriate ministers on all matters relating to wildlife policy and the management, regulation and administration of wildlife, habitat and harvesting for the Western Arctic Region and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the Council shall:

(a) provide advice on issues pertaining to the Western Arctic Region to wildlife management boards, land use commissions, the Screening Committee and Review Board and any other appropriate bodies;

(b) prepare a wildlife conservation and management plan for the Western Arctic Region for recommendation to the appropriate authorities as a means for achieving and maintaining the principles set out in subsection (1) to (5);

(c) determine and recommend appropriate quotas for Inuvialuit harvesting in the Western Arctic Region;

(d) determine and recommend harvestable quotas for migratory game species referred to in subsections (39) and (40) where they are harvested by native peoples other than the Inuvialuit, whether inside or outside the Western Arctic Region;

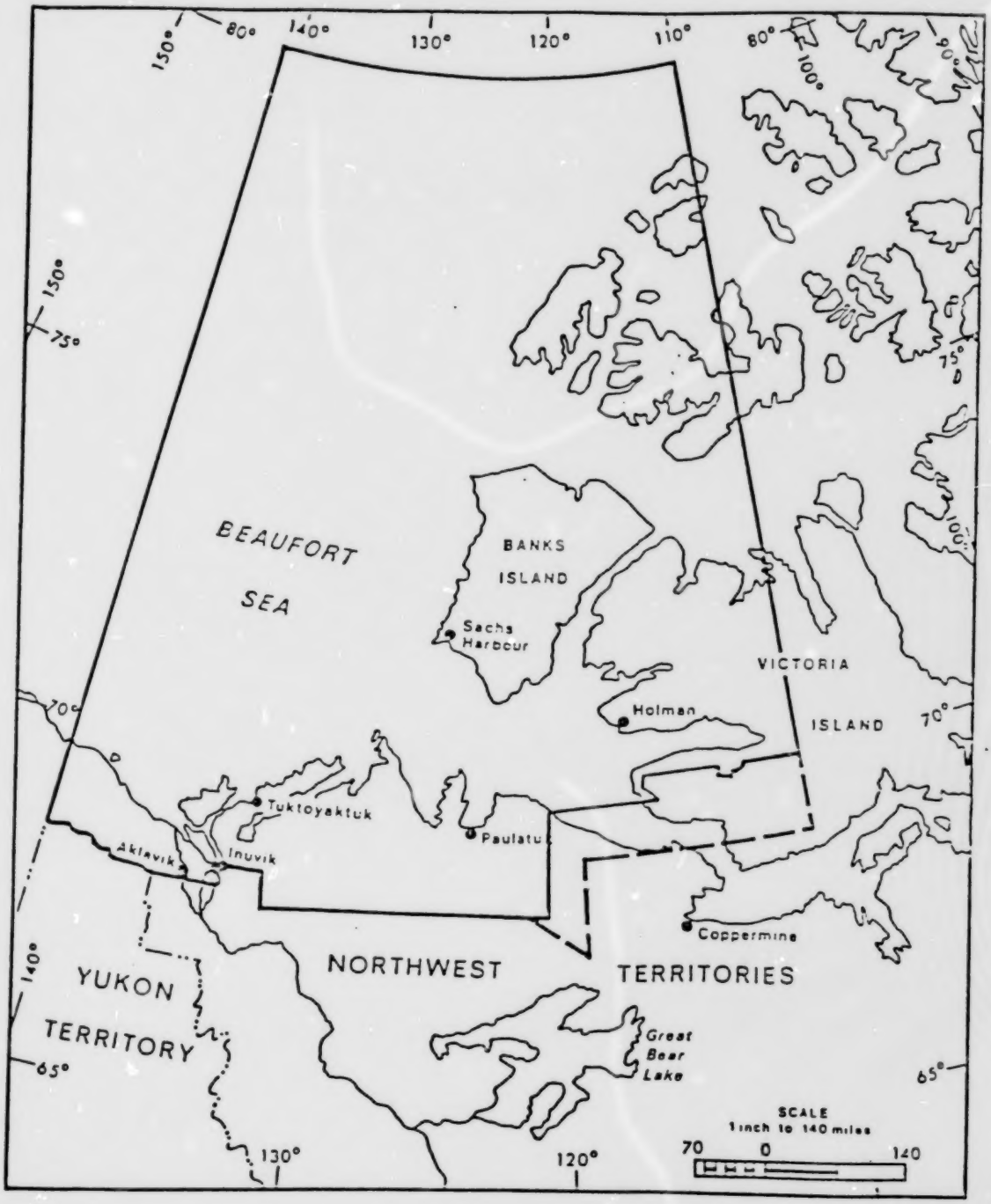
(e) review and advise the Government on any proposed Canadian position for international purposes that affects wildlife in the Western Arctic Region;

(f) review and advise the appropriate government on existing or proposed wildlife

legislation;

(g) advise on measures required to protect habitat that is critical for wildlife or harvesting in the Western Arctic Region; and

(h) request from time to time, if appropriate, the participation of the local Hunters and Trappers Committees in the regulation of the subsistence harvest and the collection of subsistence harvest information.



Inuvialuit Settlement Region

APPENDIX B

MEMBERSHIP OF THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT)

Chairman	-	W.W. Mair, 2250 Kinross Avenue, VICTORIA, B.C. V8R 2V5
Department of Environment Representative	-	Gordon Kerr, Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Western and Northern Region, 4999 - 98th Ave., EDMONTON, Alberta. T6B 2X3
Alternate	-	Kevin McCormick, A/Northern Operations Manager, Canadian Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 637, YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T. X1A 2N5
GNWT Representative	-	John Bailey, Regional Superintendent, Dept. of Renewable Resources, Government of the N.W.T. Bag Service #1, INUVIK, N.W.T. X0E 0T0
Alternate	-	Randal Glaholt, Regional Supervisor, Wildlife Management, Dept. of Renewable Resources, Government of the N.W.T. Bag Service # 1, INUVIK, N.W.T. X0E 0T0

GNWT Representative - Jim Bourque,
Deputy Minister,
Dept. of Renewable Resources,
Government of the N.W.T.
P.O. Box 1320,
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9

Alternate - Dave Brackett,
Asst. Deputy Minister (Management)
Dept. of Renewable Resources,
Government of the N.W.T.
P.O. Box 1320,
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9

Inuvialuit Game Council
Representatives - Andy Carpenter,
(Vice-Chairman)
General Delivery,
SACHS HARBOUR, N.W.T.
X0E 0Z0

- Albert Elias,
General Delivery,
HOLMAN, N.W.T.
X0E 0S0

- Nelson Green,
General Delivery,
PAULATUK, N.W.T.
X0E 1N0